

269. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the steps of feeding the first, second, and third streams occurs substantially simultaneously.

270. (New) The method of Claim 269, further comprising a step for diverting the fourth stream to one of a plurality of vessels based on the measured variable measured after the blending step.

271. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising the step of returning all or a portion of the fourth stream to the first or second goods streams.

272. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising the step of returning all or a portion of the fourth stream as a third feed stream to the blending device.

273. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the measured variable of the fourth stream is controlled by increasing the flow rate of the first or the second stream or both substantially simultaneously with feeding the third stream.

274. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the measured variable of the fourth stream is controlled by decreasing the flow rate of the first or the second stream or both substantially simultaneously with feeding the third stream.

275. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the measurable variable is the approximate fat, lean tissue, or water content of the goods.

276. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising a step for grinding the goods of the first and the second streams before the step of feeding the first or the second streams to the first and second devices.

277. (New) The method of Claim 276, further comprising the step of reducing bacteria on the goods, with an agent, prior to the grinding step.

278. (New) The method of Claim 277, wherein the agent comprises a halogen.

279. (New) The method of Claim 278, wherein the agent comprises chlorine.

280. (New) The method of Claim 279, wherein the agent comprises an acid and sodium chlorite.

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281. (New) The method of Claim 280, wherein the acid is an organic acid.

282. (New) The method of Claim 281, wherein the acid is citric acid.

283. (New) The method of Claim 277, wherein the agent comprises ozone.

284. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising treating the first and second streams with radiation selected from the group consisting of E beam, X-ray and ultraviolet C.

285. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising a step for exposing the first and the second streams to a selected gas during the grinding step.

286. (New) The method of Claim 285, wherein the gas comprises carbon dioxide or nitrogen.

287. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising a step for exposing the first and second streams to a selected gas.

288. (New) The method of Claim 276, further comprising a step for exposing the first and second streams to a selected gas, prior to grinding.

289. (New) The method of Claim 276, further comprising a step for mixing the goods after the grinding step and before the measuring step.

290. (New) The method of Claim 289, further comprising a step for exposing the first and second streams to a selected gas during the mixing step.

291. (New) The method of Claim 290, wherein the gas is carbon dioxide or nitrogen.

292. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising a step for containing the first and the second streams in an enclosed vessel before the feeding steps to allow continuous feeding through an enclosed conduit while substantially minimizing escape of any gas provided in the vessel.

293. (New) The method of Claim 292, further comprising a step for exposing the goods to a selected gas during the containing step.

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294. (New) The method of Claim 293, wherein the gas comprises carbon dioxide or nitrogen.

295. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising a step for exposing the goods to a selected gas during the blending step.

296. (New) The method of Claim 295, further comprising a step for removing water from the gas during the blending step.

297. (New) The method of Claim 295, wherein the gas comprises carbon dioxide or nitrogen.

298. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising a step for grinding the fourth stream.

299. (New) The method of Claim 298, further comprising a step for exposing the goods to a selected gas during the grinding step.

300. (New) The method of Claim 299, wherein the gas comprises carbon dioxide or nitrogen.

301. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the first stream comprises a plurality of two or more goods streams.

302. (New) The method of Claim 301, further comprising the step of treating the plurality of streams under ultraviolet radiation.

303. (New) The method of Claim 266, where the second stream comprises a plurality of two or more goods streams.

304. (New) The method of Claim 303, further comprising the step of treating the plurality of streams under ultraviolet radiation.

305. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the first stream has a lower percentage of the measurable variable in comparison with a higher percentage in the second stream.

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306. (New) The method of Claim 305, further comprising a step for substantially simultaneously blending the third stream to produce the fourth stream to have a measured composition that is between the low percent of the first stream and the high percent of the second stream.

307. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising the step of substantially simultaneously forming a plurality of blended streams from the first and the second goods stream in a plurality of blending devices.

308. (New) The method of Claim 307, further comprising a step for substantially simultaneously and automatically controlling the measurable variable of the plurality of blended streams by increasing or decreasing the flow rates of the first or the second stream or both to each of the blending devices.

309. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the fourth stream feeds a controlled atmosphere packaging system.

310. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the feeding of the first and the second stream is carried out by pumps that suitably compensate for surge of the streams.

311. (New) The method of Claim 266, wherein the flowrate of the first and second streams is controlled to provide a fluid stream of substantially constant content, before the blending device.

312. (New) The method of Claim 266, further comprising the step of reducing bacteria with an agent before the blending step.

313. (New) The method of Claim 312, wherein the agent comprises a halogen.

314. (New) The method of Claim 313, wherein the agent comprises chlorine.

315. (New) The method of Claim 314, wherein the agent comprises an acid and sodium chlorite.

316. (New) The method of Claim 315, wherein the acid is an organic acid.

317. (New) The method of Claim 316, wherein the acid is citric acid.

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318. (New) The method of Claim 312, wherein the agent comprises ozone.

319. (New) A product made by the method of Claim 266.

320. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

means for grinding goods to partially dissolve a suitable gas that minimizes the formation of oxymyoglobin on the goods;

means for propelling the goods through a transfer tube;

means for measuring the content of a suitable variable of the propelled goods;

means for blending the goods in a selected gas, wherein said goods come from a plurality of grinding means, for producing a goods stream having the blended fat content of the plurality of streams.

321. (New) The apparatus of Claim 320, further comprising means for controlling the temperature of the goods.

322. (New) An apparatus for pumping blended goods comprising:

means for propelling goods in an enclosed conduit and for compressing goods to eliminate voids containing a suitable gas that dissolves into the goods, said gas being capable of reducing the formation of oxymyoglobin on the goods;

means for reducing the exiting flow rate of the propelled goods by means which expand the volume of the conduit; and

means for shaping the goods leaving the conduit.

323. (New) An apparatus for grinding goods, comprising:

a vessel including an entry and an exit, wherein the vessel defines a longitudinal housing;

a member with a continuous spiraling edge portion rotatably mounted within the housing, said edge portion being substantially flush with walls of said housing;

at least one reciprocating piston mounted on a housing chamber, said chamber being located approximately at said vessel exit.

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324. (New) An apparatus for grinding goods, comprising:
means for grinding goods;
means for containing the ground goods in a substantially enclosed environment;
means for introducing a selected gas into the means for containing the goods; and
means for propelling the goods in an enclosed conduit and for compressing goods to
eliminate voids containing the selected gas that dissolves into the goods.

325. (New) The apparatus of Claim 324, further comprising a second means for
grinding the goods exiting the conduit.

326. (New) The apparatus of Claim 324, further comprising means for shaping the
propelled goods leaving the conduit.

327. (New) An apparatus for grinding meat, comprising:
a vessel having an entry and exit point for meat;
a meat grinding head attached to the entry point;
a conduit leading to the entry point, said conduit including an auger for propelling
meat through the grinding head and into the vessel;
a second auger mounted at a lower portion of the vessel for discharging the contents
of the vessel to an exit conduit; and
at least one port on the vessel for introducing a suitable gas that reduces the formation
of oxymyoglobin on the goods.

328. (New) The apparatus of Claim 327, wherein the exit conduit has a selected
cross-sectional profile.

329. (New) The apparatus of Claim 327, wherein the exit conduit further
comprises a valve.

330. (New) The apparatus of Claim 327, wherein the exit conduit further
comprises a second grinding head.

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331. (New) The apparatus of Claim 330, wherein the second auger comprises a plurality of apertures to introduce a selected gas.

332. (New) An apparatus for blending goods, comprising:
a plurality of means for grinding and feeding a plurality of goods streams;
means for blending each one of the plurality of streams into a stream of substantially uniform cross-sectional composition; and
means for introducing a selected gas to contact the goods.

333. (New) An apparatus for blending meat, comprising:
a vessel having an entry point and an exit point for the meat;
a plurality of augers disposed longitudinally inside the vessel to blend the meat from one or a plurality of incoming feed streams;
a port on the vessel for introducing a selected gas;
a blower in communication with the interior of the vessel to propel the gas through a gas entry and gas exit point; and
a heat exchanger in communication with the interior of the vessel to remove accumulated liquids in the gas.

334. (New) The apparatus of Claim 333, further comprising twin augers meshing inside a conduit, wherein the external surfaces are in close proximity to an internal conduit surface.

335. (New) An apparatus for blending meat, comprising:
a plurality of conduits each having an entry point and an exit point for the meat;
a plurality of augers disposed longitudinally inside each conduit to blend the meat from one or a plurality of incoming feed streams into a plurality of streams each of substantially uniform cross-sectional composition;
an enclosure surrounding the plurality of vessels; and
a port on the enclosure for introducing a selected gas.

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336. (New) An apparatus for blending goods, comprising:
means for grinding and feeding a goods stream
means for blending the stream into a stream of substantially uniform cross-sectional compositions;

means for containing the goods in contact with blending means;
means for introducing a selected gas;
means for removing accumulated liquids in the gas; and
means for propelling the gas through the liquid removing means.

337. (New) The apparatus of Claim 336, further comprising:

means for returning the liquid to the means for blending.

338. (New) The apparatus of Claim 337, further comprising:

means for reducing bacteria of the liquids.

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339. (New) A system for controlling a measurable variable in the production of goods, comprising:

means for feeding a first stream of goods in an enclosed conduit to a first device capable of measuring a suitable variable;

means for feeding a second stream of goods in an enclosed conduit to a second device capable of measuring a suitable variable;

means of joining the first and second streams in an enclosed conduit after measuring the variable of each stream, at a confluence to form a third stream; and

means for feeding the third stream in an enclosed conduit to a blending device to form a fourth stream having a substantially uniform cross-sectional composition wherein the feeding of the first, second, and third streams occurs substantially simultaneously.

340. (New) The system of Claim 339, further comprising means for controlling the flow rate of the first and second streams to thereby control the fourth stream's composition.

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341. (New) The system of Claim 340, further comprising means for measuring the fourth stream's composition.

342. (New) The system of Claim 341, further comprising means for diverting the fourth stream in an enclosed conduit to one of a plurality of vessels.

343. (New) The system of Claim 339, further comprising means for grinding the goods of the first and second streams before feeding to the measuring devices.

344. (New) The system of Claim 339, further comprising means for reducing bacteria in the goods before, after, or during blending the goods.

345. (New) The system of Claim 339, further comprising means for contacting a suitable gas with the goods, before, during, or after blending the goods, that reduces the formation of metmyoglobin on the goods upon exposure to ambient atmospheres.

346. (New) The system of Claim 339, further comprising means for packaging the fourth stream of goods in controlled atmosphere packages.

347. (New) The system of Claim 339, further comprising means for diverting a stream of goods.

348. (New) An apparatus for blending goods, comprising:

a vessel defining a first radiused portion and a second radiused portion, the first radiused portion being larger than the second radiused portion;

a plurality of inlets to the first radiused portion for introducing goods;

a rotating member having a plurality of arm members that are in close proximity to the walls of the first radiused portion said arm members defining a constant volume between each of said arms;

a driver to rotate said rotating member; and

an auger having a continuous spiraling edge in close proximity to the walls of the second radiused portion to propel the goods out of the vessel.

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349. (New) The apparatus of Claim 348, further comprising a plurality of inlets to the first radiused portion for introducing a suitable gas to the first portion.

350. (New) An apparatus for processing goods, comprising:
a vessel having an entry and an exit for the goods;
a first port to introduce a first selected gas on a first end of the vessel;
a second port to introduce a second selected gas on a second end of the vessel; and
a third port located between the first and the second port to remove the first and second gases;

wherein the vessel entry and exit are plugged with the goods to minimize the escape of the selected gases.

351. (New) The apparatus of Claim 350, wherein the first gas is ozone and is introduced near the vessel's entry.

352. (New) The apparatus of Claim 350, wherein the second gas is carbon dioxide and is introduced near the vessel's exit.

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